

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. The Examiner has allowed claims 1-9 and 15-20. The Examiner rejected claim 10 and objected to claims 11-14. Applicant has made the appropriate correction to the language of claim 1 to address the Examiner's objection to that claim. The Examiner's other objections and rejections are addressed below in substantially the same order as in the office action.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hendrickson et al (5,636,691). In particular, the Examiner contends that in the Hendrickson et al device nothing "prevents the wear rings 168 from being rotated relative the outer sleeve 146[.]" Thus, the Examiner concludes that the wear rings 168 are "rotatably retained" within the outer sleeve as recited.

Applicant observes that while Hendrickson et al does not explicitly call out some element that prevents rotation of the wear rings 168, patent figure are not intended to identify each and every aspect of a particular device. Thus, Applicant submits that without an express statement that the wear rings 168 can rotate, it is improper to assume that the wear rings 168 can rotate. Nevertheless, Applicant has amended claim 10 to recite that the blast liner rotates in response to the slurry flow in the flowspace. Hendrickson et al does not disclose such an arrangement. For example, in Figure 10 of Hendrickson et al, the flow direction 176 is shown as bearing directly radially onto the wear ring, which clearly cannot urge rotation of the wear ring 168.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objected to Claims 11-14 but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has not rewritten these

claims since Applicant believes that base claim 10 as amended is in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

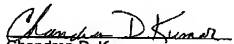
The Examiner allowed Claims 1-9 and 15-20. For clarity and to better claim the present invention, the independent claims and some dependent claims have been amended in certain aspects. Applicant believes that these amendments do not affect the stated allowability of these claims.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the application is in a condition for allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0429 (304-35458-US).

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 19, 2005


Chandran D. Kumar
Registration No. 48,679
Madan, Mossman & Sriram, P.C.
2603 Augusta, Suite 700
Houston, Texas 77057
Telephone: (713) 266-1130
Facsimile: (713) 266-8510

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I certify that this correspondence, along with any papers referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being transmitted by facsimile to the attention of Commissioner for Patents, facsimile number 703.872.9308 on this 19th day of August 2005.


Margaret A. Pruitt